

Good Neighborly News

Issue 2

A Neighborhood Watch Publication

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Block Captains:

Share this newsletter with your block participants and don't forget to sign up for **e-mailed crime alerts**.

To register, e-mail me at jodee.sasway@carlsbadca.gov and get details.

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Police Watch Commander

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Records Division:

769-931-2119

Detective Division:

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The mission of the Crime Prevention Unit is:

The anticipation, recognition and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.

Let's do it together!

Protecting your Flat Screen TV from Theft

To lift a 1980's, 27-inch television would take two or more people. Now it is easy to walk away with a flat screen television. This makes a flat screen television a popular item to steal from homes and offices.

Here is an anti-theft solution for a flat screen television! This solution works with flat screen televisions on wall mounts or in furniture and is called a "TV Lock Kit."

When choosing a wall mount for your television, choose one that comes with a lock kit.

The purchased kit includes a screw pack, 2 steel chassis fittings, 1 four foot aircraft cable (superior cut resistant weight), 1 security mounting plate (furniture installation), 1 tamper-proof (one-way) screw and 1 heavy-duty padlock. The system actually locks your flat screen television to your home or office preventing it from being easily carried away.

How easy is it to install?



First, locate the screw holes on the back side of your monitor. If there is a screw in place you must first remove two (2) screws with a Phillips-head screw driver. If your television does not have exposed screws you may exchange the screw pack for a mounting plate.

Second, locate an appropriate screw size from the sets provided in the kit. Drop the screw through the washer (if needed) and then into the fittings and screw securely into the TV.

Third, insert the "no access" caps after screws

are tightened. Note: If the screw does not tighten or is too long, try another length screw. You may also obtain the correct size screw at your local hardware store.



Fourth, pass the eyelet end of the cable through the two fittings.

Finally, install the mounting plate on the credenza with the screw provided. Put the shackle of the padlock through the eyelet end of the

security cable and then attach the padlock to the mounting plate and the lock (as shown).

To see how easy this is to use, watch the YouTube video at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MXoTAffNio&feature=player_embedded

For even more security, you can purchase a shock alarm for your television.

A shock alarm has three parts:

The first is a base plate that you fuse to your equipment or to something heavy using a bonding agent. You pop the alarm onto this plate, wire one of the two styles of sensors and turn the key. The television is tethered to something heavy.

The alarm is triggered when the electronically monitored tether is cut or unplugged. It is not motion sensitive. You can bang it, lift it, or move it with no alarm.

If a thief wants to steal the television, he has to take the sounding alarm with him. The alarm sounds for one hour.



Vehicle Burglary...Again

Vehicle burglary and theft from unlocked vehicles continues in Carlsbad.



On any street in Carlsbad a thief can find a vehicle, sometimes unlocked, that contains property worth thousands of dollars. Add up what you leave inside your vehicle and you might be surprised at the total replacement cost. Will your insurance even cover the total cost? Is it worth the risk?

Laptops, purses, wallets, backpacks, iPods, iPads, CD's, checkbooks, GPS's, cell phones, sporting equipment, social security cards, passports, garage door openers, clothing, cash, etc. can be found every day.

What are you doing to protect yourself from such an expensive loss-not to mention the cost and inconvenience of replacing a broken window?

It is easy at 1, 2, 3:

Park it carefully, in the garage when possible. Then secure your garage.

Always lock your vehicle no matter where you park it. Even in the garage.

Clean it out completely, taking all personal property with you no matter the value. Plan ahead so you do not have to leave valuables in your vehicle when parking at the beach, walking trails or shopping areas. Leave all non-essentials at home.

Protecting Against Identity Theft

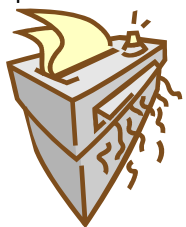
Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes...worldwide. Credit card numbers, driver's license numbers, social security numbers, dates of birth and other personal identification are used by criminals to gain thousands of dollars quickly.

A thief can obtain credit in your name by having credit cards, products or services delivered to their address or mail drop. Since the bills are sent to the thief's address, not yours, you will be unaware that debt is mounting until the collections department tracks you down. By then, your credit report will be full of late payments and accounts in collection.



Preventing Identity Theft:

- Run a credit report on yourself to see if there are any unknown credit inquiries or unauthorized accounts.
- Reconcile your check and credit card statements monthly. Challenge any purchases that you did not make.
- Limit the number of credit cards you have to reduce exposure and cancel any inactive accounts.
- Crosscut shred all unused, pre-approved credit cards and loan applications. A thief only has to fill them out and redirect the return address to start using your credit.
- Never give out important numbers like your driver's license, credit card, bank account, date of birth or social security number to anyone you don't know, especially over the telephone.
- Minimize the exposure of your drivers' license number, date of birth, social security number, and credit card numbers. If the numbers are requested for check cashing purposes, ask if the business has alternative options. Always question the need for this information.
- Crosscut shred your credit and debit card receipts, bank statement, any tax documents,



paycheck stubs, W-2 forms and other documents that contain your social security number when you throw them away. This is a common way for dumpster divers to obtain important information.

- Scrutinize your utility and subscription bills to make sure the charges are yours.
- Destroy all checks immediately when you close a checking account. Destroy or keep in a secure place any courtesy checks that your bank or credit card company may mail to you. You can opt out of getting checks for your credit cards.
- Memorize your passwords and personal identification (PIN) numbers. Keep your PIN numbers somewhere safe.
- Don't give out your PIN or write them on your credit cards or ATM cards.
- Keep a list or photocopy of all credit and identification cards you carry with you, including the front and back, so that you can quickly call the issuers to inform them about missing or stolen cards.
- Don't give away too much personal information on your family web site. Full names, dates of birth and address are too much information to post. By obtaining your "place-of-birth," the identity thief can get your duplicate birth certificate.
- Protect your mother's maiden name, especially when using family tree tracers and genealogy service web sites. Maiden names are often used as passwords to access accounts over the telephone.
- Never leave your purse or wallet unattended at work, at restaurants, at health fitness clubs, in your shopping cart, at church or at social gatherings. Never leave your purse or wallet behind in your car, even when locked.